

Building Closures For Inauguration Period

The Whitten, Yates, and South Buildings will close at 10 p.m., on Friday, January 16, 2009, and will remain closed to all employees and visitors until sometime after 12:01 a.m., on Wednesday, January 21, 2009, to enable the facilities to be used for law enforcement and related support for Inaugural activities. USDA staff and contractors will not be allowed normal access to facilities during these timeframes.

Though normal access is prohibited, special access lists have been prepared by USDA agencies for personnel essential to the operation of the Headquarters. Individuals on those lists must enter and exit at Court Two of the South Building, as that will be the only entrance open throughout the above timeframe. In order to receive entry, personnel on the access list must present their USDA identification card to security personnel and sign-in and sign-out.

It is expected that normal access to the Headquarters will resume on Wednesday, January 21, 2009. However, as large crowds and limited road closures could remain in place well into Wednesday, managers may want to consider, where appropriate, encouraging telework, sending employees to alternate sites, or offer flexibility in work schedules on January 21st, for affected employees.

Please excuse any inconvenience the Headquarters closure may cause you.

Boyd K. Rutherford
Assistant Secretary for Administration